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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Center for International Rehabilitation (Special; 2004)

Part 1: Introduction

The Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) is a Chicago-based, not-for-profit organization that develops research, education and advocacy pro- grams to improve the lives of people with disabilities internationally. Founded in 1996 by Dr. William Kennedy Smith, the CIR operates in collaboration with the renowned Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University. Through innovative engineering projects, capacity-building education programs, interactive online tools, and disability rights advocacy with the International Disability Rights Monitor, the CIR reaches out to individuals and communities across the globe.

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conference and other United Nations meetings

3rd Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 24 May – 4 June 2004. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

4th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 23 August – 3 September 2004. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about disability rights.

Side event to the 4th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 24 August 2004. CIR hosted a briefing on the findings of the International Disability Rights Monitor (Americas) and hosted a panel of speakers who included Ambassador Luis Gallegos, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee; Sheika Hessa Al Thani, Special Rapporteur on Disability; Dr. William Kennedy Smith, Chairman and Founder of the Center for International Rehabilitation; IDRM International Coordinator.

5th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 24 January – 4 February 2005. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

6th Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 1-12 August 2005. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

Side event to the 6th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 8 August 2005. CIR hosted a briefing on the findings of the International Disability Rights Monitor (Asia)

7th Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 16 January – 3 February 2006. Representatives of the CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

United Nations Roundtable on Older Persons in the 2004 Tsunami. United Nations Headquarters, New York, February 13–16. The CIR International Coordinator made a presentation at the Roundtable on 'Disability and Early Tsunami Relief Efforts in India, Indonesia and Thailand'.

Side event to the 7th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 2 February 2006. The CIR organized a themed side event on improving accessibility: Governmental and Civil Society perspectives.

8th Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 14– 25 August 2006. Representatives of the CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Project undertaken in conjunction with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability, which evaluated the availability and accessibility of critical services for people with disabilities during the phases of relief and reconstruction after the December 2004 Tsunami. The product of this joint initiative was an IDRM thematic report, *IDRM: Disability and Early Tsunami Relief Efforts in India, Indonesia and Thailand*, was released in September 2005. The report provides a look at how governments, international relief organizations and local disability organizations responded to the needs of people with disabilities in the aftermath of the tsunami

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed

Development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.
Activities in Support of Global Principles

The International Disability Rights Monitor is recognized internationally as a landmark report in documenting the rights of people with disabilities. The project has a global focus and since its establishment, it has been strategically operated in parallel to the negotiations on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. United Nations Educational, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank have quoted its work. Listed below is a series of publications and a website resource which is used by international disability advocates:

International Disability Rights Monitor series of reports: (i) IDRM: Regional Report of Europe in September 2007; (ii) IDRM: *Regional Report of Asia* in August 2005; (iii) IDRM: Disability and Early Tsunami Relief Efforts in India, Indonesia and Thailand in September 2005; (iv) IDRM: Regional Report of the Americas in August of 2004. Website Resource: www.idrmnet.org

2. EarthRights International (Special; 2004)

PART I: Introduction

EarthRights International (ERI) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization dedicated to combining the power of law and the power of people in defense of human rights and environmental protection. ERI both represents and partners with individuals and communities who are victims, survivors, or at risk of human rights and environmental abuses, most of which occur during natural resource exploitation efforts such as logging, oil and gas development, mining, and water diversion projects. ERI assists local communities by enhancing their capacity to raise their own voices to protect their rights and homelands and prevent harms before they occur. When violations do occur, ERI and its local partners use international, regional and domestic legal systems, and public education and advocacy, to demand accountability. In addition, by working directly with the communities, and bringing media attention to individual stories and key cases, ERI helps to put a human face on pressing human rights and environmental issues.

ERI focuses on enhancing the capacity of grassroots human rights defenders through the EarthRights Schools for Myanmar and the Mekong region, and through additional earth rights legal trainings in the Amazon region and Southeast Asia. Our litigation and legal work, and related media and communications activities, aim at transforming the on-the-ground information we obtain from our local community partners into effective legal strategies and advocacy programs in the United States of America and internationally.

PART II: Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

The primary contribution that EarthRights International has made to the work of the United Nations in the report period of 2004-2007 has been to participate in the work of Professor John Ruggie, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises.

This work by ERI was in direct follow up to the adoption by the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, in August 2003, of the United Nations Norms on the Responsibility of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights. ERI has supported the Norms and applauded the United Nations efforts to pursue establishing standards in this area. ERI, along with its civil society partners, prepared a *Joint Civil Society Statement on the Global Compact and Corporate Accountability*, which was submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General on 23 June 2004, urging him and the countries of the United Nations, to support the Norms and to re-design the Global Compact to become an instrument to ensure real corporate accountability. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNHCR), at its 60th session (15 March-23 April 2004), requested the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights to do follow up work related to the Norms. It was on this basis that Prof. Ruggie was appointed SRSG.

ERI presented its first submission to the Special Representative – *Earth Rights Abuses by Corporations in Burma (collective summary and recommendations)* - on 10 November 2005. ERI has also been an active participant in the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), Corporate Accountability Working Group. As a part of this participation, ERI helped to prepare the *Joint NGO Submission* presented to Prof. Ruggie at the United Nations Consultation on Human Rights and the Extractive Industry, held in Geneva, 10-11 November 2005. The joint submission highlighted the influence and power of transnational corporations throughout the world, and the inadequate means currently available to ensure oversight of their activities. It also included a number of case studies, showing patterns of violations and gaps in the protection of human rights, including environmental and indigenous peoples' rights, which have taken place in a number of countries. (Thirteen national case studies were included.) The draft submission was circulated at the consultation, with the final version being given to Prof. Ruggie at a consultation with NGOs in London on 9 December 2005.

ERI attended the UNHCR 62nd session in Geneva, Switzerland, 13-27 March 2006 to present testimony on corporate abuses of human rights. ERI was one of 92 NGO signatories to a *letter sent to the SRSG*, on 18 May 2006, to express appreciation for, and submit comments to, his interim report on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which he submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 22 February 2006. ERI presented an *Asian Civil Society Statement*, signed by 21 NGOs, to the SRSG at a regional consultation on Human Rights and Supply Chain Management, held in Bangkok, on 26-27 June 2006. This statement urged the Special Representative to expand the scope of his inquiries regarding corporations and human rights, and to support codification of the international standards for transnational corporations and human rights.

ERI submitted its second solo report to Prof. Ruggie – *The International Standard for Corporate Aiding and Abetting Liability* - on 11 July 2006.

ERI continued to follow the work of the Special Representative, in pursuit of his extended mandate, and anticipates continuing to provide submissions to further, and facilitate, his work.

3. International Automobile Federation (Special; 1972)

Part 1 – Introduction

i. Aims and Purposes

Founded in 1904, with headquarters in Paris, the FIA is a world-wide, non-profit organization regrouping 219 automobile and touring clubs, motoring organisations associations or federations from 130 countries across the five continents. Its member clubs represent over 100 million motorists and their families. It represents the interests of motorists and tourists in general; it is also the governing body for world motor sport, and as such establishes the rules for international automobile

competitions. As an organization of such wide scope and importance its opinions carry weight and it enjoys considerable prestige at international level.

Through the activities of its affiliated members at national level and its permanent cooperation with intergovernmental bodies at international level (UNO, EU, Council of Europe, ECMT) the FIA works to promote freedom of mobility through affordable, safe, and clean motoring; to defend the rights of consumers when travelling by automobile; to support harmonisation of rules with respect to automobile manufacture and to automobile use (infrastructures, traffic rules, road signs and signals); to protect road users from abusive taxation and restrictive legislation; and to promote "intelligent" tourism which aims, through education and information made available to FIA affiliated members and to the public at large, to limit tourism which can damage the environment and to encourage tourism which is sensitive to national, regional and local cultures.

Other objectives include the management of a system of mutual services between its affiliated member organizations for the benefit of their members when travelling abroad, and to make recommendations and disseminate information relative to international motoring and travel, sustainable mobility, and environmental protection.

The FIA has worked to support tourist travel, particularly with regard to the barriers restricting movement across national borders. In conjunction with the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT) the FIA produces and administers internationally recognized documents which facilitate international travel and tourism, and co-manages a customs document network which ensures the correct and efficient use of the Carnets de Passages en Douanes and triptyques through the joint AIT/FIA CPD Network.

i. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

The FIA has enjoyed special consultative status with the United Nations since 1972, and continued to participate in the activities of this organization over the past four years. It has been dedicated to representing the rights of motoring organisations and motor car users throughout the world via campaigns and activities that defend their interests. On issues such as safety, mobility, the environment and consumer law, the FIA actively promotes the interests of motorists at the United Nations, as well as through other international bodies.

The FIA takes an active part in numerous meetings of various United Nations Working Groups, within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UN/ECE) in Geneva. Each year, the FIA attended the plenary session of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS), when the short and long-term guidelines and work programs were established for this Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Over the past four years, the FIA has focused on the Committee's work on environment and road safety questions. Written and/or oral reports were frequently submitted on subjects under discussion.

The FIA participated on a regular basis in the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP 29) as well as its subsidiary working group on passive safety (WP29/GRSP) which, among others, recently undertook to recast ECE Regulation 44 on Child Restraints, first drafted in 1981; and it's Group of Experts on Pollution and Energy (WP29/GRPE).
The FIA was actively involved in the revisions of the United Nations Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954), Commercial Road Vehicles (1956), and the Convention of Road Traffic (1968), and continued to contribute to keeping these conventions up to date. To this end, the FIA was present for meetings of the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP 30).

The FIA participated on a regular basis in the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP 1), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC 1), the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC 3) and the Ad Hoc Meeting on Implementation of the Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

The FIA closely followed the activities of other international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that share a common interest in tourism, transport, mobility and environmental matters, and keeps its members informed of related work carried out by the United Nations. The FIA attached a great deal of importance to the work carried on by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and continued to play an active role in that work in areas which fall within its fields of competence, notably those of mobility, motoring, road safety, transport, tourism, environmental protection, energy conservation, and consumer protection.

4. International Federation of Beekeepers Associations (Special; 1972)

Part 1 - Introduction

Apimondia exists to promote scientific, technical, ecological, social and economic apicultural development in all countries and the cooperation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and of individuals involved in apiculture worldwide. It also aims to put into practice every initiative that can contribute to improving apiculture practice and to rendering the obtained products profitable.

No major changes occurred in the Federation's Statutes. However, as a consequence of the Statutes amendments adopted in 2003 with regard to the membership, the number of the members as well as their geographical distribution markedly increased (75 members representing 59 countries in 2007 compared to 47 members representing 43 countries in 2003). This entailed a far more widespread reach of the Federation.

During the period 2004-2007 Apimondia's activities focused on developing and carrying out the resolutions adopted by the Apimondia General Assembly meetings held in the 39th and 40th Apimondia Congresses, held respectively in Dublin, Ireland, on 22 August 2005 and Melbourne, Australia, on 10 September 2007, in particular: (i) promotion of fair trade of honey worldwide and assistance to small-scale African beekeepers to develop their access to international markets;

(ii) distribution of information on the role of bees in the pollination process and on the management of bees for use in commercial pollination; (iii) collation and provision of information on the interactions of managed bees with the environment; (iv) harmonisation of management procedures for the preservation of bee product quality.

Contribution of the organisation to the work of the United Nations

Co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) covered following activities:

- meetings with top management representatives of Agricultural Services – Technology Unit responsible for beekeeping activities to define joint initiatives aimed at extending FAO involvement in various countries through the implementation of new beekeeping projects. Invitation to FAO officer to Apimondia International Congress and his presentation delivered during plenary sessions in 2005 (Ireland);
- continued monitoring on Codex Alimentarius activities after honey standard revision phase closed and meetings with FAO senior officers to establish scope for creating new working groups for bee products other than honey and define standards for same and
- organisation of joint workshop on "Trans-Disciplinary Research and Communication Paradigms for Rural Development in Central and Eastern Europe" in Titignano, Italy, 12-16 September 2005.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings

Apimondia could not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in major conferences during the reporting period due to the very limited budget and staff availability.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Many of the activities and events carried out by the Federation in this period, in line with the deliberations adopted by the Apimondia General Assembly, were focussed at promoting development in the less favoured regions of the world in order to alleviate poverty, foster food security and strengthen sustainable livelihoods in line with the Un..ed Nations MDGs.

5. National Council of Women of Thailand (Special; 2000)

Part I. Introduction

i. Aims, purposes and main course of action of the organization.

The aims of The National Council of Women of Thailand (NCWT) are to: (i) act as a center for promoting and supporting activities of women organizations through out the nation; (ii) study and

exchange opinions with other local and international women organizations in order to strengthen the social welfare, good understanding, and well-being for all human, especially women; (iii) find the ways to improve quality of life, status, and ability of Thai women as well as to eliminate problems hindering the development of women or women organizations; and (iv) cooperate and coordinate with government and private organizations locally and internationally in performing work that is beneficial to women and society.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

The representative of NCWT attended the following events: (i) International Day of Peace, September from 2006 to 2008, United Nations Bangkok, Thailand; (ii) World Food Day 17 October 2006, United Nations Bangkok, Thailand; (iii) 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women 26 February – 9 March 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York (as an observer); (iv) The Gender Mainstreaming: What it means and the way forward Workshop 25 April 2007, United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok, Thailand. (v) Workshop on The International Day of Non-Violence 2 October 2007, United Nations Bangkok, Thailand.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

None

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Disease:

Target 6. A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
ACTIONS:

Secondary-level students with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS = 2,000

Activities in Support of Global Principles

International Women's Day was observed each March 8 of year by NCWT. The organization celebrated and awarded 10 Laudable Women in the labour force. Special lectures were selected for the event.

NCWT organized a seminar on the end of violence against women (VAW) in November of every year. More than 600 female students were educated and trained a self-defense course. Related information on VAW situations and campaigns in Thailand were acknowledged in the seminar.

6. Rehab Group
(Special; 1996)

Part I – Introduction

Rehab Group is a leading, international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to delivering high quality, person-centred health and social care, training, education, employment, rehabilitation and commercial services to people with disabilities, older people and others who are marginalized. Since 2003, Rehab Group has experienced considerable expansion. In addition to its services in Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Group now has services in Poland and the Netherlands and since 2003 the number of people benefiting from its services has increased from 40,000 to 56,000 people per year.

The Rehab Group has placed significant importance on its Special Consultative status with the United Nations and is committed to reflecting the goals and objectives of the United Nations in its work. It promotes the United Nations Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Standard Rules and the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Human Rights Conventions.

Part II – Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations
Participation in the work of the Economic and social Council and its subsidiary bodies/and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

- Over the period of this report the Group took preparatory steps to take part in Ireland's reports to the Committee on Human Rights in respect of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in respect of the third report on the ICESCR. Participated in activities which took place in Ireland included: (i) Consultative seminar facilitated by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs on Ireland's Third Periodic Report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966; (ii) Seminar hosted by Amnesty Ireland in preparation the development of Ireland's third report on the ICESCR.

- During the period in question, Rehab Group played a strong role in the negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Activities included: (i) following from its attendance at an earlier meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, Rehab Group sent a representative to the 3rd Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the drafting of the Convention in New York in May/June 2004. Participation included discussions with NGOs and state parties; (ii) In April 2004, a seminar was held in Dublin to raise awareness among people with disabilities of the importance of the Convention. This event was sponsored and organised by Rehab Group in association with the Rehabilitation International Ireland, the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Irish Forum of People with Disabilities; (iii) Through its membership of the Irish Joint Foreign Affairs/NGO Human

Rights Committee, Rehab Group raised awareness at national government level of the issues of importance to the organisation in the development of the Convention. Consultation was meaningful and regular and was particularly valuable in 2004 when the Ireland held the presidency of the European Union (EU) and was chairing the EU delegation to negotiations on the Convention; (iv) Rehab Group was at the forefront of the media and lobbying campaign to encourage Ireland to be one of the first countries to sign the Convention in 2007. Ireland subsequently signed the Convention on the 30 March 2007; (v) Participation in the vibrant NGO debate in relation to the Convention; (vi) Rehab Group continued to lobby the Irish government to make the relevant changes to national legislation to make ratification of the Convention possible.

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialised agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- The International Classification of Functioning (ICF) is the World Health Organisation's (WHO) system of classification of health and health-related domains which incorporated medical, functional, social and environmental factors in its scope of analysis. Rehab Group participated in a learning group as part of the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) which aimed to increase knowledge about the application of ICF to the provision of services to people with intellectual disabilities. A 'Core Set' of 65 items relating to mild or moderate intellectual disability were selected from the ICF following a comprehensive consultation process with professionals in the field. These items were then formulated as questions to create a tool to assess the needs of people with disabilities. The tool was then piloted with a number of adults with mild or moderate intellectual disability in a resource centre promoting community and independent living in the North East of Ireland using ICF rating scales.

(iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

- In 2004, the Irish Government introduced its National Disability Strategy following significant consultation with the disability sector. As detailed in previous reports, during the dialogue which preceded the publication of the Strategy, Rehab Group worked to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities were central. Angela Kerins, Rehab Group Chief Executive and Chairperson of the National Disability Authority is now Chairperson of the Disability Stakeholders Group which continues to ensure that the voice of the disability sector is heard in the implementation of the Strategy and is Vice Chairperson of the National Disability Strategy Stakeholders Monitoring Group which oversees the implementation of the Strategy. The Rehab Group is also directly represented on consultative forums which are facilitated at the level of government department.

- Rehab Group is a member of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs facilitated NGO Human Rights Committee which ensures that Irish and international NGOs can take part in the human rights debate and can influence the Irish Government's decision making process in relation to international human rights policy particularly Ireland's activities in overcoming human rights and humanitarian abuses in the developing world. Rehab attends committee meetings four times a year as well as a national Annual Forum on Human Rights.

- In late 2007, Rehab commenced planning for the Rehab Group/Workability International Grant scheme, a one year pilot grant scheme to fund new and innovative projects that support the initiation of enterprise and/ or staff training and personal development projects, for people with disabilities, within sheltered and supported employment settings in developing economies.

International Partnerships

Through the development of international partnerships, Rehab continues its international work to promote best practice in the development of services to people with disabilities and to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities throughout the world.

- Rehab Group holds the presidency of Workability International (WI). Over the period of the report, WI made substantial efforts to extend its support globally to a larger number of organisations particularly those in Africa and Asia. This has allowed the organisation to ensure that organisations across the globe benefit from membership of the world's largest body representing providers of work and employment services to people with disabilities drawing on the expertise and support of other members. In 2007, Workability embarked on a new initiative, Workability Europe Business (WEB) which works to promote the creation of meaningful jobs for people with disabilities and to develop central procurement policies which ensure the best possible use of resources in companies which employ people with disabilities. Workability is a member in the United Nations Global Compact and a partner in the World Bank Global Partnership for Disability.

- Rehab Group is also a member of the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR), a network of leading European providers of rehabilitation services. In 2005, Rehab hosted EPR's annual conference in Dublin, entitled *Rehabilitation Pays* to promote the value of early intervention services for people who require rehabilitation. The conference was attended by a wide range of international and Irish speakers.

- Rehab Group often facilitates international study/exchange visits of groups from throughout the world with an interest in disability services. Over the period of this Report, Rehab hosted delegations from Finland, Hungary, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Romania, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, the Russian Federation, Taiwan Province of China and Hong Kong, China.